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TO: Examiner Julian W. Wood Group Art Unit 3731

FAX TELEPHONE NO.: (571) 273-8300

FROM: Gary M. Gron

DATE: July 25, 2005

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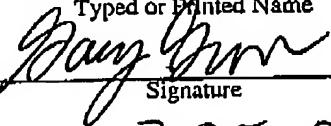
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In re patent application of: )  
 Hathaway ) Before the Examiner  
 ) Woo, Julian W.  
 Serial No. 10/008,781 )  
 ) Group Art Unit  
 Filed November 13, 2001 ) 3731  
 )  
 APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR )  
 POSITIVE CLOSURE OF AN )  
 INTERNAL TISSUE MEMBRANE )  
 OPENING ) July 25, 2005

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop Amendment  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 PO Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 25, 2005, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and consideration of the accompanying remarks.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this transmittal.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this transmittal.

Additionally, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but do not include any payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited via facsimile addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Name of Registered Representative

*Gary M. Gron*

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Hathaway; USSN 10/008,781  
 RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION  
 #355889

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Atty. Docket 7037-438